22nd March 1960]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : புதிய பாட முறைப்படி [illegible] தயாரிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

Electricity charges

513 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state the reason for increasing the rates of electricity charges for domestic consumers?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : In 1955, a departmental Committee was constituted to review the tariff structure on the basis of past experience and future requirements, to evolve a common grid tariff and to simplify and rationalise the tariff structure. After careful consideration of the Committee's report, and the views of the Madras State Electricity Consultative Council thereon, the Madras State Electricity Board introduced a revised tariff from 1st October 1959.

According to the revised tariff, there has been a slight increase over the previous rates for domestic consumers in the areas covered by the Pykara and Madras Electricity Systems while in the areas covered by the other electricity systems, there has been a slight decrease in rate.

The slight increase is due to the increase in the cost of materials and labour, and operation and maintenance expenses.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : While increasing the rate of electricity charges on domestic consumers, may I know the reason why bulk consumers are given concessions when they can afford to pay higher charges?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Even in the case of domestic consumers my answer is quite clear. Previous to the introduction of " common grade " in Madras there were three or four systems each system charging its own rates. Now after the introduction of " common grade " we have now a uniform rate. Previously where there were higher charges under certain systems, now they have to pay lower rates. In areas where there was previously a lower rate, their rate has now been slightly increased. Perhaps by this uniformity there may be slight increase. But it has been accepted by the Electricity Consultative Council and also by the Electricity Board. Regarding bulk supply, I would like to have notice.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : I shetre any proposal before the Government to give any concession to agriculturists or at least to reduce the minimum charges?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : This is under study of Government. Government have constituted, as the House knows, a High-Level Committee to study the question of minimum charges. That Committee has submitted its report to Government and it is under study. As soon as a decision is taken by Government, I will announce it to the House.

SRI P. S. CHINNADURAI : விவசாயிகள் விவசாயப்பணியை செவ்வனே செய்ய தங்கள் தோட்டங்களில் குடியிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படிப் பட்ட குடியிருப்புகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிற மின்சாரத்திற்கு மற்ற இடங்களில் இருப்பவர்களுக்கு இருப்பதைப்போல் அதிகப்படி போடாமல் விவசாயத்திற்குப் பயன்படுத்துகிற மின்சாரத்திற்கு இருக்கக்கூடிய கட்டண அளவுக்குக் கொடுக்க முன் வருவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : இதற்குத் தனிக் கேள்வி போட வேண்டும்.

SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN : இப்போது மக்களுடைய வாழ்க்கைத் தரம் உயர்வதைவிட வாழ்க்கைச் செலவு அதிகமாக உயர்கிற காரணத்தி னால், குடியிருக்கக்கூடிய வீடுகளில் பயன்படுகிற மின்சாரத்திற்கு 50 யூனிட் அளவு வரையில் மின்சாரக் கட்டணத்தைக் குறைத்து வாழ்க்கைச் செலவைக் குறைக்க முன் வருவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : வாழ்க்கைச் செலவு அதிக மாவதைக் காட்டிலும் மின்சார உற்பத்தி செலவு அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. நாம் ஒரு டாரிப் நிர்ணயிக்கக்கூடிய நேரத்தில் இதையெல்லாம் மனதில் வைத்துத்தான் ஒரு முடிவிற்கு வரவேண்டும்.

Tyres and tubes

* 514 *Q*.—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of tyres and tubes for cars; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government for their supply?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) There is shortage in the supply of the various sizes of the giant-tyres for transport vehicles, but the shortage is not acute.

(*b*) Arrangements have been made to step up the production of these tyres to meet the growing demand but it may take some time before the supply catches up with the demand and the backlog is cleared. In order to clear the backlog and to meet the urgent demands, the State Trading Corporation has been asked by the Government of India to import immediately sufficient quantity of tyres of the sizes which are in short supply. The Transport Commissioner and all Regional Transport Authorities have been requested to advise the fleet owners of this arrangement to enable them to place their firm orders with the State Trading Corporation.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Until sufficient number of tyres is available will the Government consider the desirability of introducing a system of quota allotment of tyres according to priority?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : This has got to be done by the Government of India.

SRI P. M. MUNUSAMI GOUNDER : தற்போது இந்த லாரிகளும் பஸ்களும் மொத்தத்தில் எத்தனை நம் மாகாணத்தில் ஓடுகின்றன, எவ்வளவு தேவை ஏற்படுகிறது என்பதைப்பற்றிய புள்ளி விவரம் கொடுக்க முடியுமா ?